

entire thing. But at the moment I would suggest that we do want to realize that two recent National Research Council reports stress that we are increasingly dependent on foreign nations for minerals critical to America and that we need to have an independent agency as called for in this ROCK Act amendment.

My amendment will establish the independent Minerals Commodity Information Administration and the Minerals Information Team to collect, analyze and disseminate information on the domestic and international supply of and demand for minerals, materials critical to the U.S. economy, and our national security.

U.S. businesses operate in a global economy, and virtually every manufacturing sector from aviation to textiles relies on the unbiased, comprehensive data reported by the MIT. This information enables American companies to use domestic resources effectively, forecast worldwide market conditions, develop informed strategic business plans, and respond effectively to short-term fluctuations and long-term trends in minerals prices, and I urge the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee on Interior appropriations and my fellow classmate, Mr. DICKS of Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This amendment is unnecessary. The country does not need a new bureau to create minerals information. The current situation in which the U.S. Geologic Survey administers the minerals information works perfectly fine.

As chairman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, I have examined the Bush administration proposals to eliminate funding for the USGS minerals information function. Even during these difficult budgetary times, our subcommittee has appreciated the important function of the minerals assessment team at the USGS and refused the administration's recommendation to eliminate its funding.

The Pearce amendment would nearly double the size of the new agency. It would create a new bureaucracy with at least 300 staff and a yearly cost of \$30 million or more. So please join me in rejecting this amendment.

I yield to the former chairman of the Interior subcommittee, Mr. REGULA from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this. When I was chairman of the committee, we eliminated the Bureau of Mines in 1995. Nobody missed it. The functions are carried on by the USGS very effectively. It is just one of those things that is not needed. I think it would be a big mistake to put it back in place.

The amendment provides for 200 employees out of USGS. Why take them

away from where they are doing a good job? The mining programs have worked very effectively since 1995, the time at which we eliminated this. It saves about \$100 million. I think it would be a big mistake to put another, put it back in place.

I hope that the Members will join me in opposing this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Pearce amendment. This amendment would simply re-create an agency that was dismantled in 1995. As Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee at that time, I worked to close the Bureau of Mines which the proposed amendment's agency resembles, in an effort to balance the budget through smaller, more effective government. With its closure, almost \$100 million, or 66%, of the Bureau of Mines' 1995 programs ceased. However, certain critical minerals information activities moved to the US Geological Survey. This meant we receive the needed information on our mineral resources using far less money than in the past.

Since taking over the minerals information functions, the USGS has done an excellent job of producing critical minerals information and in fact has broadened the role of the minerals information group by providing vital statistics and insight to help commerce, industry, and security.

The USGS is the sole provider of mineral resource assessments and information in the federal government. To fragment this program once again by creating a new bureaucracy in government would not improve its functionality or serve American taxpayers' interests.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment does not create anything new that is substantive. The only thing the amendment will create is a title of new agency, move some people around, and employ 100 new bureaucrats in administrative positions. Why do we need 100 administrative positions to oversee 200 scientists who were already working effectively at the USGS?

Further, the amendment proposes a \$30 million budget, which is more than double the current funding for this function. In our current budget climate, it makes no sense to add this new agency burden to government when the work this agency is proposed to do is already being done at the USGS effectively, with less expense to the taxpayer.

This amendment will only fracture our current system of attaining knowledge on our country's mineral resources, create a new bureaucracy and waste tax dollars. I urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

Mr. DICKS. I appreciate the gentleman's comment.

I want to congratulate the chairman for doing an outstanding job as one of my classmates.

The CHAIRMAN. All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

The amendment was rejected.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 110-416 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. PEARCE of New Mexico.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. CANNON of Utah.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 244, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 1030]

AYES—173

Aderholt	Fortuño	Neugebauer
Akin	Fossella	Nunes
Bachmann	Fox	Pearce
Baker	Franks (AZ)	Pence
Barrett (SC)	Gallegly	Peterson (PA)
Bartlett (MD)	Garrett (NJ)	Petri
Barton (TX)	Gerlach	Pickering
Berkley	Gingrey	Pitts
Bilbray	Goode	Platts
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	Poe
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Porter
Blackburn	Graves	Price (GA)
Blunt	Hall (TX)	Pryce (OH)
Boehner	Hastert	Putnam
Bonner	Hastings (WA)	Radanovich
Bono	Hayes	Rehberg
Boozman	Heller	Renzi
Boren	Herger	Reynolds
Boustany	Hobson	Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX)	Hoekstra	Rogers (KY)
Broun (GA)	Hulshof	Rogers (MI)
Brown (SC)	Issa	Rohrabacher
Brown-Waite,	Jordan	Ros-Lehtinen
Ginny	Keller	Roskam
Buchanan	King (IA)	Royce
Burton (IN)	King (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Buyer	Kingston	Sali
Calvert	Kline (MN)	Schmidt
Camp (MI)	Knollenberg	Sensenbrenner
Campbell (CA)	Kuhl (NY)	Sessions
Cannon	LaHood	Shimkus
Cantor	Lamborn	Shuster
Capito	Latham	Simpson
Carter	LaTourette	Smith (NE)
Chabot	Lewis (KY)	Smith (TX)
Coble	Linder	Souder
Cole (OK)	Lucas	Stearns
Conaway	Lungren, Daniel	Sullivan
Crenshaw	E.	Tancred
Cuellar	Mack	Terry
Culberson	Manzullo	Thornberry
Davis (KY)	Marchant	Tiahrt
Davis, David	McCarthy (CA)	Tiberi
Deal (GA)	McCaul (TX)	Turner
Dent	McCotter	Upton
Diaz-Balart, L.	McCrery	Walberg
Diaz-Balart, M.	McHenry	Walden (OR)
Doolittle	McHugh	Walsh (NY)
Drake	McKeon	Wamp
Dreier	McMorris	Weldon (FL)
Duncan	Rodgers	Westmoreland
Ehlers	Mica	Whitfield
Emerson	Miller (FL)	Wicker
English (PA)	Miller (MI)	Wilson (NM)
Everett	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)
Fallin	Moran (KS)	Wolf
Feeney	Murphy, Tim	Young (AK)
Flake	Musgrave	Young (FL)
Forbes	Myrick	